

U. S. Coast Guard Helicopter Evacuation Briefing

When a Coast Guard helicopter is **enroute** to your position, you should make the following preparations for hoisting.

- Lower all masts and booms that can be lowered.
- Provide a clear area for hoisting, preferably on the stern.
- Ensure that all loose gear on the vessel is securely tied down.
- Keep all unnecessary personnel out of the way.
- When the helicopter arrives in your area, change course to place wind 30 degrees on your port bow and continue at standard speed. This may be modified on request from the helicopter pilot.

The helicopter will provide all of the required equipment. The rescue device should be guided to the selected location on deck by the ships crew by means of the steadying line. On each approach, allow the rescue device to touch your vessel, to discharge static electricity.

If the rescue device has to be moved to the person being evacuated, unhook it from the cable. Do not move the rescue device from the hoisting area with the hoisting cable still attached. If the cable is unhooked, do not, I repeat, don't attach the cable to any part of the ship. For safety the helicopter may move to one side while the patient is being prepared for hoisting. Ensure that the person being hoisted is wearing a lifejacket, if their condition **permits**. The patient should be informed of the instruction on the rescue device. Upon signal from your vessel the aircraft will move back over the vessel and lower the hook. Allow the hook to touch your vessel to discharge static electricity. Then refasten the hook to the rescue device.

When the vessel is ready to hoist, a "thumbs up" signal should be given to **the** aircraft. Ensure that personnel are tending the steadying line to prevent the rescue device from swinging excessively. During the hoist, strong gale force winds may be developed by the helicopter. These winds may make it difficult to steer your vessel. Attempt to contact Coast Guard rescue helicopter on Channel 16 VHF/FM.